



A.G. on Ag

Issue 41, 12.17.08 California Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation

With passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 ([AB 32](#)), California continues its climate change leadership by setting a goal of reducing greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The [California Environmental Protection Agency](#), through its Air Resources Board, will consider this month an [AB 32 Scoping Plan](#) that contains a range of actions and strategies to achieve this goal.

In concert with this effort to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, the [California Resources Agency](#) has undertaken the task of developing California's first comprehensive [Climate Adaptation Strategy \(CAS\)](#). This initiative recognizes that climate change is already occurring and will continue to affect California to some degree, regardless of the mitigation actions taken in the Scoping Plan. The goal of CAS is to prepare California to cope with these ongoing changes in our climate.

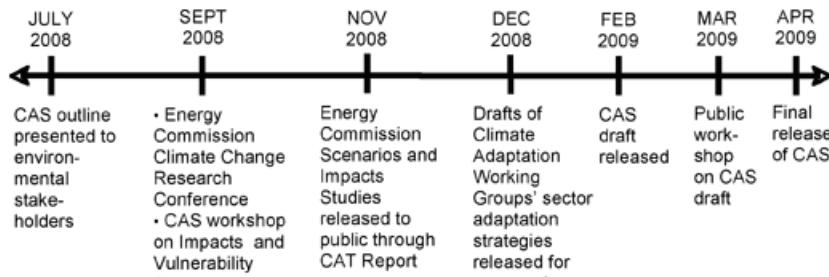
Six state agency Climate Adaptation Working Groups have been formed by the Resources Agency to identify and prioritize climate adaptation strategies. Among the six sectors is the [Working Landscapes Work Group](#), which includes forestry and agriculture. Each working group, including agriculture, has developed a first draft of potential climate change adaptation strategies. As these draft strategies undergo initial stakeholder review, they will be posted to the Resources Agency CAS website, until they are included in the overall adaptation strategy. There will be additional opportunities for stakeholder input on these strategies as the draft CAS is released in early Spring 2009.

Agricultural stakeholders are invited to engage in this adaptation strategy development. To get involved, visit the Resources Agency's [CAS website](#) to learn about the initiative and offer input, particularly on the agriculture and forestry climate adaptation strategies.

To be notified of upcoming comment and workshop opportunities, go to the "List Servers" feature on the right side of the CAS homepage. Enter the requested information to receive CAS e-mail messages on these topics.

The first draft of the agricultural Climate Adaptation Strategies white paper should be posted this month. Once public comments have been received and incorporated, a comprehensive Climate Adaptation Strategy document will be prepared and issued for further stakeholder review and comment in early spring of 2009.

Climate Adaptation Strategy Timeline



CAS = Climate Adaptation Strategy

CAT = Climate Action Team

On a separate note, I'm pleased to serve on the board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. This month I attended the second annual summit to review three years of work toward improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for its 3.9 million residents. In just three years, this group has been instrumental with the following: securing more than \$205 million in Proposition 1B funding for five transportation projects; exploring the Valley's potential for providing renewable energy; creating a Valley job site on the Web at www.careersinthevalley.com; promoting a regional water-management plan; and supporting a controversial new rule requiring developers to pay to offset pollution resulting from their projects.

Happy Holidays and thank you for your support of California agriculture.

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